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Inspection at Laredo, Tex.—Suspect smallpox case.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, through Assistant Surgeon Richardson, April 4, as follows, week ended April 2, 1904:

Passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 14; persons on trains from Mexico inspected, 545; immigrants inspected, 50; persons vaccinated, 20; Pullman coaches disinfected, 14.

Third-class coach on local train running between Saltillo, Mexico, and Laredo, Tex., contained, on April 1, one Mexican immigrant child with suspicious eruption, nonimmune to smallpox and not vaccinated; child's mother immune to smallpox. Coach contained only four other persons (immunes). Coach, with passengers and baggage therein, returned to Mexico and Mexican authorities notified. Person with eruption originated at Bustamente, Mexico. Railroad company notified not to return coach until properly disinfected.

Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—yearly and monthly.

GEORGIA—*Augusta.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 43,441. Total number of deaths, 60, including whooping cough 1, and 7 from tuberculosis.

KENTUCKY—*Louisville.*—Month of March, 1904. Census population, 204,731. Total number of deaths, 522, including diphtheria 2, enteric fever 10, smallpox 2, and 48 from tuberculosis.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Newton.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 39,310. Total number of deaths, 37, including scarlet fever 1, and 1 from tuberculosis.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended April 2, 1904, from 70 observers, indicate that rheumatism, gonorrhea, diarrhea, inflammation of kidney, syphilis, cancer, measles, enteric fever, erysipelas, whooping cough, dysentery, intermittent fever, diphtheria, and inflammation of brain were more prevalent, and cholera morbus, remittent fever, meningitis, puerperal fever, and cholera infantum were less prevalent than during the preceding week.

Meningitis was reported present at 5, whooping cough at 13, diphtheria at 32, enteric fever at 35, pneumonia at 57, scarlet fever at 58, smallpox at 76, measles at 77, and phthisis pulmonalis at 224 places.

MONTANA—*Helena.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 13,000. Total number of deaths not reported. One death from measles reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—*Concord.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 47, including diphtheria 2 and 4 from tuberculosis.

NEW JERSEY—*Passaic.*—Six weeks ended April 2, 1904. Census population, 27,777. Total number of deaths 80, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1, and 5 from tuberculosis.

NEW YORK.—Reports to the State board of health, Albany, for the month of February, 1904, from 156 cities, towns, and villages, having

an aggregate population of 7,735,000, show a total of 12,749 deaths, including diphtheria 305, enteric fever 145, measles 94, scarlet fever 149, whooping cough 37, smallpox 1, and 1,179 from phthisis pulmonalis.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN says:

The most notable fact connected with the mortality of the month is the large number of deaths that have been reported, there having been an average of about 440 deaths a day. For the year 1903 there was an average of but 350 deaths per day. We have no February mortality which equals this, and it exceeds by almost 2,000 the average of the past five years. It likewise exceeds the mortality of January, which was itself a month of excessive death rate, by 500, or to place them on the same basis, by a daily rate of 440 deaths against 400. At the present rate there would be 160,800 deaths in a year, or 44,000 more than occurred in 1903; and taking the two months of January and February the rate for the year would exceed that of last year by 26,000.

Compared with last month the urban death rate for the entire State is 22 per thousand population, annually, against 20, and the rural death rate is 20 against 16; the total rate being 20.7 against 18.7. The deaths of early life, both under the age of 1 year and between 1 and 5 years, are relatively the same in both months; but at age of 70 and over there were relatively fewer deaths.

From epidemic diseases there were about the same number of deaths in both months, both as a whole and in detail, which indicates a little increase in February, the only material increase has been in deaths from typhoid fever. The percentage of deaths from epidemic diseases is, however, less this month, showing a relative increase in deaths from other causes.

Pneumonia is the cause of the chief increase in mortality. There were 1,820 deaths against 1,500 in January, or 14.3 per cent of the total deaths against 12.3 per cent. With the exception of the Hudson Valley district, which shows no increase over last month, there has been a large increase in deaths from pneumonia in all parts of the State. (It may be of interest to note in this connection the meteorological data which shows for the eastern part of the State uniform cold weather with an unusual number of clear, sunshiny days and high range of barometer.) In none of the sanitary districts were less than 10 per cent of the deaths from pneumonia, New York City having 16 per cent of its deaths from this cause, an increase from 14 in January. In the year 1903 pneumonia caused 8 per cent of the deaths.

Consumption does not show an increase, but is rather diminished, relatively, as but 9.2 per cent of all deaths were from it, against 9.7. All of the sanitary districts show this relative decrease, which is very marked in the Hudson Valley district.

Acute respiratory diseases other than pneumonia (for the most part bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia) have a decreased mortality from January in the maritime district, but elsewhere show little variation, and the total for the State is relatively the same in both months.

The mortality from other local diseases, of the digestive, urinary, circulatory, and nervous systems, shows no material variation. There was an increase in the number of deaths from general diseases other than those specified, and also in the unclassified causes of death.

Grippe has been epidemic during these two months, and is still in progress through March. How far it has entered into the mortality of the month is a matter of estimate. In 5,000 deaths returned direct to this office there were only 250 certificates on which this was given as in any way contributory to the mortality, or but half of 1 per cent. Without doubt it contributed to the unusual mortality of these months to a much greater degree than this, an analysis of which will be made later in the present epidemical prevalence.

An epidemic of typhoid fever developed in Watertown in January and has continued to the present time, through March, about 600 cases having occurred, with 48 deaths to the present time, contributing largely to the increase in the mortality of this month from this cause. It was traced readily to the water supply, which is an untreated sewage-bearing stream and has for years past placed this city in the list of places of high typhoid fever mortality. A public water supply of this sort is always an exceedingly costly one at the best, and especially so when a great outbreak, to which it constantly exposes the place which employs it, comes into existence.

Health officers are requested to keep a closer report of cases of typhoid fever than is called for by our monthly contagious disease card. It is desired that reports be made as they occur from time to time in their municipalities. A card for this purpose, similar to our smallpox, diphtheria, and scarlet fever card, is being prepared for this purpose, together with a typhoid fever leaflet of instructions.

Smallpox exists in 47 municipalities in this State (at the end of March), in the counties of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Erie, Essex, Genesee, Herkimer, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Otsego, Rockland, Saratoga, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Washington, Wayne, and Westchester. The widest distribution is in Cattaraugus County, where 6 towns are still having it; 4 in Chautauqua; 3 in Cayuga; 3 in Niagara; 3 in Steuben; 4 in Tioga; 3 in Washington County. The rest have but one affected town, some of which have but one or two cases. The first two counties named have had smallpox a long time and in them it is abating. The disease is generally less active than a month ago. There is no question of the nature of the disease, but it has been so mild that not a few cases escaped detection. There was but one death from this cause during the month of February, in Brooklyn.

Saratoga.—Month of March 1904. Census population, 12,119. Total number of deaths, 33, including enteric fever 1, and 3 from tuberculosis.

OHIO—*East Liverpool.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 24, including 1 from enteric fever.

PENNSYLVANIA—*Columbia.*—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 13,500. Total number of deaths, 33, including enteric fever 4, and 1 from tuberculosis.

Dunmore.—Month of March, 1904. Estimated population, 15,000. Total number of deaths, 21, including 2 from tuberculosis.

Pottsville.—Month of February, 1904. Estimated population, 17,210. Total number of deaths, 24, including diphtheria 1, and 1 from scarlet fever.